

Astro News

America's Air Force: No one comes close

Fighting nation's wars, maintaining peace, putting out fires are just some of the highlights of the past 53 years

F. Whitten Peters

Secretary of the Air Force

Gen. Michael E. Ryan

Air Force Chief of Staff

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — With the stroke of a pen 53 years ago, President Harry S. Truman created the United States Air Force as a separate armed service. Since then — in war and peace — America's Air Force has maintained a worldwide vigil, responding rapidly with unparalleled reach and power.

The past year has been an eventful one for our Air Force. We've reconstituted our forces following a 78-day air war over Serbia in which air power alone halted a despot's cruel actions against ethnic and religious minorities within his own country.

At the same time, we worked hard to implement the Expeditionary Aerospace Force, and for the first time deployed eight of our 10 aerospace expeditionary forces. These deployments were the first steps on our journey to a 21st century force structure, and the lessons learned are already being used to improve the way we will operate the EAF. As advertised, predictability and stability have become more common in the lives of our warfighters and their families.

We "declared war" and met our recruiting goals; and we are hopeful we have turned around the downward retention trends of the last several years.

We also invested heavily in our readiness accounts, in an effort to stabilize the readiness of all of our units, and



Photo by Joe Juarez

From left to right: "Most junior airman" Senior Airman Warren DeGuzman, 61st Mission Support Squadron, SMC commander Lt. Gen. Eugene Tattini and "junior commissioned officer" 2nd Lt. Peter Dahlberg, Civil Engineering, cut the cake celebrating the 53rd birthday of the Air Force at The Club ballroom Sept. 18.

these investments are already beginning to bear fruit.

This past year was one in which we worked hard to rebuild and redirect our Air Force, but it was also one in which we continued operations throughout the globe. From Operations Northern and Southern Watch, to flood relief in Africa, to the fire-ravaged forests of the western United States, America's Air Force stood ready and stood to-

gether, nearly three-quarters of a million people strong — active, Reserve, Guard; military and civilian — to make our own great nation stronger and to protect its worldwide interests.

To all who have served before and to those who now serve, happy birthday to America's Air Force: No one comes close!

Scooter scoop:
Great fun for riders who wear proper safety equipment, dangerous for rest

Tech. Sgt. Tim Dougherty
Public Affairs

Sure, the wildly popular "Razor" scooters are cool, but they can be dangerous as well. Recently, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reported that emergency room-treated injuries related to these lightweight scooters have increased 700 percent since May. There were more than

4,000 scooter-related injuries treated in hospital emergency rooms in August alone.

Nearly 90 percent of the injuries are sustained by children under 15 years of age. It is recommended that riders, especially children, wear proper safety gear including a helmet, wrist guards and knee and elbow pads to help prevent injuries.

This is the same safety gear CPSC recommends for in-line skating. Wrist guards can reduce the risk of broken bones or

dislocated joints. Knee pads can help prevent knee injuries.

"These scooters are the 'in' thing with kids heading back to school," said CPSC Chairman Ann Brown. "Unfortunately, many kids are ending up in hospital rooms instead of classrooms."

The scooters are new versions of the foot-propelled scooters first popular in the 1950s. (Compiled from CPSC press releases.)

Internet scams, identity theft a real danger



Capt. Douglas W. Chicka
Hill AFB Legal Office

HILL AFB, Utah (AFMCNS) — The Internet provides unprecedented worldwide access; unfortunately, scam artists are using this same unlimited access to further their endeavors.

The Federal Trade Commission has issued a consumer alert regarding another Internet and e-mail scam. The scam e-mail appears to originate from your Internet Service Provider and states that your account needs to be updated or that your credit card is invalid or has expired. The FTC says you should not respond to this kind of message without first contacting your Internet Service Provider.

The FTC classifies this type of scam as another attempt at identity theft.

In 1998, Congress passed the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act, making it a federal crime for a person to transfer or use a means of identification of someone else with the intent to commit a crime.

If you think you have been scammed, contact the National Fraud Information Center at www.fraud.org; the Federal Trade Commission at 877-IDTHEFT or www.consumer.gov/idtheft. You can also call the U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs at 800-664-4435.

If you discover that your identity has been stolen, you definitely need to contact the three major credit agencies: Equifax at 800-525-6285, www.equifax.com; Experian at 888-397-3742, www.esperian.com; and Trans Union at 800-916-8800, www.tuc.com. Request a copy of your credit record.

For the latest information on new scams, try these sites: www.consumer.gov/idtheft, www.privacyrights.org. Otherwise, if you have any questions call your base legal office.

Thrift Shop re-opens, creating must-shop Thursdays for LA AFB

Taria Hollett
Thrift Shop Manager

The Base Thrift Shop held its Grand Re-Opening Sept. 7. If you missed the Big Bargain Bag Bonanza, don't worry, great items are still available and waiting for you every Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Thrift Shop takes consignments on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. This is a great chance to clean out that garage and get some cash for items you don't need or use. We'll sell your clean, unbroken items for you, and all you have to do is sit back and wait until the end of the month for your check! Stop by and ask us for all the details.

Eighty percent of the Thrift Shop profits go towards scholarships and other charitable contributions which benefit our troops.

Stop by and check us out, and bring a friend. We are located in Area B, right next to the HAWC and the Class Six Store.



Annual photo contest deadline extended

The Community Center is hosting the Annual Los Angeles AFB Photo Contest. The four categories are monochrome prints, color prints, transparencies and digital photos.

Subjects to consider are military life,

people, nature, creative effects and computer imaging and enhancement (digital photo category only). All identification cardholders are eligible to participate. Deadline to turn in photos is Oct. 25. The Community Center will exhibit all nomi-

nees in the ballroom Oct. 27. Los Angeles AFB winners will be sent to the Air Force Materiel Command for competition in the major command contest.

For additional information, visit the Community Center or call 363-8225.

Action line 363-2255

The Action Line is your direct link to Col. David E. Price, 61st Air Base Group commander. Its purpose is to make Los Angeles AFB a better place to live and work. Below is a list of people to call if you have any issues that need to be addressed.



Base Exchange – David Clore 640-0129
Base IG – Lt. Col. John R. Woodcock 363-0802
Chaplain – Lt. Col. Gary Garvey 363-1956
Civil Engineering –
Lt. Col. William Saunders 363-0287

Commissary – Al Cherry 363-6140
Comm. Sqd. – Lt. Col. Lori L. South 363-0798
Equal Employment Opportunity Program Office –
Leonard Gonzales 363-1565
Family Support Center – Tom Sanders 363-5365
Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline 363-2020
Housing – Jon M. VanHoose 363-8340
Logistics – Capt. Tam Elliott 363-0351
Medical – Col. Mark Wisniewski 363-5005
Mission Support –
Lt. Col. Maureen Hurley 363-1230

Privacy Act/FOIA – Jesusa Cruz 363-2576
Public Affairs – Lt. Col. Robert Potter 363-0030
Security Forces – Maj. Lyle W. Cary 363-0032
Services – Gary Van Dusen 363-0430
Military Equal Opportunity Office –
Capt. Elizabeth Vallery 363-2806
TRICARE 363-0261
24-hour Crime Stop 363-2124
Legal Office – Col. Scott Bagley 363-0916
Area Defense Counsel –
Capt. Art Kirkpatrick 363-6776

Astro News

*Space and Missile Systems Center
Editorial Staff*

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Editorial policy

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Deadline for submissions is Friday, close of business, the week before publication. Articles should be sent via e-mail to the editor or sent on disk. The mailing address is SMC/PAI, 2420 Vela Way, Suite 1467, El Segundo, Calif. 90245-4659.

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Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

For advertising information or space reservations, call Gail at (661) 945-5634.

Submit articles to:
SMC.PA.ASTRONEWS@
LOSANGELES.AF.MIL
or
Call 363-0303 for more
information.

News Briefs

Strike could delay commutes

While the local Metropolitan Transit Authority continues its strike, please take into consideration that your commute to work can be delayed. Leave a little earlier than usual and take advantage of the services offered by our Base Commuter Programs Office. Los Angeles AFB will observe California Rideshare Week on Oct. 2 - 6. Pledge Cards will be distributed to all organizations. Several Las Vegas getaways will be drawn from the pledge cards returned from our base alone and a \$1,000 grand prize will be drawn region wide. Call Dan Dickerson, 61ABG/CEZV, 363-0912 for transit, vanpooling and carpooling information.

Congrats to colonel selects

Congratulations to the following Space and Missile Systems Center Lieutenant Colonels who have been selected for promotion to colonel by the recent colonel promotion selection board:

Norman Albert, former executive officer to the SMC Commander and currently attending the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.; Steven Burris, Systems Acquisition (SMC/AX); Thomas Clay, Space Based Infrared Systems (SMC/MT); William Dean, Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (SMC/CI); Mark Niece, Airborne Laser Program (SMC/TM, Kirtland AFB, NM); Kathleen O'Regan, Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (SMC/CI); William Possel, Space Based Laser Program (SMC/TL); Robert Potter, Public Affairs (SMC/PA); William Saunders, Civil Engineering (61 ABG/CE); and Below the Zone selectee, Larry Schaefer, formerly of the Space Based Infrared Systems Program (SMC/MT).

The Center's colonel selectees will host a promotion celebration at the Club on Oct. 5 beginning at 3:30 p.m. All SMC personnel are cordially invited to attend.

Battle of Britain anniversary

The Santa Monica Museum of Flying will host "The Battle of Britain" exhibit next weekend. On Sept. 30 there will be a Battle of Britain aces symposium starting at 10 a.m. That evening there will be a dinner and dance at 5:30 p.m. with a Big Band theme. On Oct. 1, more than 150 classic British cars will be on display, along with historic British and German airplanes, British food, poster signings and even biplane rides. To order tickets for any of these events, call 392-8822, ext. 549.

Mishap reporting required

Mishap notification procedures are established to ensure prompt and accurate notification of all mishaps. These reporting procedures are identified in AFI 91-204 Safety Investigations and Reporting and AFI 91-301 AF Occupational and Environmental Safety, Fire Prevention and Health (AFOSH) Program.

Singles dinner set for Sept. 28

A singles dinner for military personnel will be held in Building 37 at Fort MacArthur Sept. 28 starting at 5:30 p.m. For more information call the Chaplain's office at 363-1956.



Photo by Joe Juarez

Officer Jaime Lugo talks to children at the child care center while on bike patrol in Area B Sept. 18.

'Community policing' the key for base security

Maj. Lyle W. Cary

Commander, 61st Security Forces Squadron

The Oklahoma City and Khobar Towers terrorist acts changed the way the Air Force approached force protection. Images of death and destruction offended and outraged Americans. We empathized with mourning families and felt their sorrows. At Los Angeles AFB, the threat also includes criminal activity that can be equally devastating. The threat is not imaginary, it is very real. Therefore, we must do everything in our power to decrease the likelihood of a similar tragedy occurring here. This objective will be accomplished through a community security approach.

Our community must employ a team approach to security. First, our Security Forces officers and READY augmentees are extremely important in our force protection efforts. Each position is critical, whether performing installation entry control or patrol duties. They invest much training time and long hours to facilitate a secure environment. Thank a cop when you see them. However, we must resist temptation to view security as an exclusive Security Forces or Office of Special Investigations function.

Responding to the social unrest in the 1960s and 1970s, the Congress enacted several bits of crime control legislation. Large sums of money were obligated to fighting crime. Police were thought of as solely responsible for protecting the community and crime fighting. Hence, there was a shift from preventing crime to a crime fighter mentality. Police became reactive instead of proactive, while communities abdicated responsibility for protecting families and property. Arguably, this contributed to the rising crime rates throughout the late '70s and into the '80s.

Think about growing up as a child in your neighborhood. Chances are, especially for us older Air Force members, the community structure was very different than today. The local cop knew every child and every parent. Further, each family knew all the children and their parents. When a child acted beyond the norms of behavior, it was immediately brought to the attention of the parent. Most times, police didn't need to be involved.

Also, adults took pride in appearance of their homes and yards. Seldom did a neighborhood lapse into disrepair. As a result of a 1982 study, J.Q. Wilson, a noted criminal justice researcher, held that signs of disorder such as cluttered yards, trash in the street and broken windows led to attracting criminal activity to communities. Our society has evolved into one where families do not always assume responsibility for order maintenance in their neighborhoods, but look to police as their only protectors. In most cases, when police are called, they are reacting to crimes that have already occurred and don't prevent most incidents from happening. While there is deterrent value in highly visible patrols, unfortunately police have realized too late they cannot protect everything – communities must become actively involved in crime prevention.

In the near future, you will be hearing more about community policing at Los Angeles AFB. Community policing emphasizes a proactive partnership with neighborhoods. Elements include crime prevention and antiterrorism strategies. The objective is to empower communities to take back responsibility for protection by giving families the necessary tools. The 61st Security Forces Squadron will lead an awareness effort that will include personal protection training, crime prevention training, antiterrorism familiarization and a robust juvenile diversion and gang intervention initiative. Seminars will be open to all active duty members and their families, as well as Los Angeles AFB civilian employees. The police part of the puzzle will be to increase visibility, act on information to prevent rather than react to crime and facilitate community involvement. You will see more walking patrols, increased bike patrols, periodic awareness training and frequent personal contact with officers. In addition, more aggressive unit assistance efforts will improve installation force protection capability. Finally, we will continue to provide a well-trained police force to respond to routine and emergency situations.

We are fortunate to serve in an Air Force that truly cares about the health and welfare of its members and families. Community security is a key element in credible force protection and maintaining order and discipline on the installation. Remember that good security is not always convenient. Together, we will make Los Angeles AFB an even better place to work and play.

Det. 9 wins Missile Safety Award

Hap Parker
Public Affairs

Detachment 9, Space and Missile Systems Center, is the winner of the Air Force Missile Safety Plaque, Category II, for 1999.

SMC Commander Lt. Gen. Eugene Tattini presented the plaque to Col. John Wagner, Det. 9 commander, during a ceremony at the unit's location on Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

The award recognizes Det. 9 for superior achievements during the period Oct.1, 1998, through Sept. 30, 1999.

"This is the second year in a row our people have been singled out for this honor," Wagner said. "In fact, we've earned this prestigious award five times in the past six years."

Wagner went on to point out that in addition to the unit's outstanding launch support and operational accomplishments, adherence to vigorous safety practices were second to none.

"We were rated tops in our responses to hazardous or environmental operating conditions," he said. "Our contributions to explosives or missile safety through

material improvements and development of effective educational and publicity venues were recognized as best in the Air Force."

Det. 9 leadership continually emphasized safety first – an attitude practiced by each man and woman in the detachment. This effort paid big dividends when they were called on to resolve five major safety issues involving C-5 Galaxy and C-130 Hercules aircraft.

"We established explosive operating instructions for loading and unloading rocket motors on these aircraft and improved our performance times by more than 10 percent," Wagner said. "These were flawless operations."

Additionally, the unit was lauded for in-depth safety compliance review which identified eight operational and procedural discrepancies. "We caught them and fixed them and established new test procedures for the Multi-Service Launch Systems program," Wagner said.

The colonel said the close working relationships with contractors and other base personnel helped make it easy to maintain safe space and missile systems as well as facilities and range assets. "We work together as a team and each of us view our safety practices as top priority," Wagner said.

Misuse of Government Travel Card can cause big trouble

Cleota Drysdale
Public Affairs

Misuse of the Government travel card can land you in jail. Federal employees – both military and civilian – are required to use the card for both temporary duty travel and permanent change of station travel, but using the card for personal reasons can lead to severe disciplinary action such as non-judicial punishment or a court-martial for military members, while civilians can be reprimanded, suspended or removed from the job.

"The travel card gives all Federal employees similar benefits, but if it's misused can lead to very unpleasant consequences," said Senior Airman Alicia LeValley, Base Agency Program Coordinator.

"If you are going on temporary duty, you can use the card to buy airplane tickets, rent cars and pay for lodging," LeValley said. "The card can also be used to purchase food and to get cash advances from automatic teller machines when trav-

eling. When in a PCS status, the card can be used to buy groceries, pay for lodging and obtain cash advances if staying in temporary quarters while looking for permanent lodging."

It's a fairly simple formula – if you aren't in a travel status, you can't use the card. LeValley said the card can never be used to pay for an ordinary purchase or to draw money from an ATM if not in a PCS or TDY travel status.

"Do not use the card to make reservations for social events or to pay club dues. These things all constitute misuse," she said. According to LeValley, disciplinary action has been taken in cases of misuse of the card here at Los Angeles AFB.

Col. Samuel S. Bagley, SMC Staff Judge Advocate, said a civilian who misuses the government travel card faces discipline up to and including termination depending on the circumstances. Military members are subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and if convicted, can receive a dishonorable discharge or dismissal and up to two years confinement for each instance of misuse.

Big sister plays important role in girl's life

Senior Airman Chris McGiveney
Public Affairs

Even though time may be at a premium in today's world, Dorothy Brown, SMC's deputy inspector general, spends some of her valuable time away from the office with a local nine-year-old girl.

Brown became Rikkia Alexander's "Big Sister" in October 1999 through the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America program, the nation's most widely known non-profit youth mentoring group.

"Since most of my family is back east and I have the time, becoming a Big Sister seemed like a great way to give back to the community. I felt I had to do this," Brown said.

Brown spends two days a month with her Little Sister. They might bake cookies, visit the library, play miniature golf or just talk. Brown tries to focus the discussions on Rikkia's education and on ways to reach her goal of becoming a doctor or a lawyer.

Although the pair have been to an ice show and have participated in other activities that aren't free, the program is not meant for the Big Sister to spend a lot of money on the child or shower her with gifts. "It's about being and sharing with them," Brown said. "If you have the time, it's a great program to support."

Providing support is somewhat routine to Brown. As the deputy inspector general, Brown supports investigations, offers institutional advice and listens to individual complaints from SMC employees or anyone on Los Angeles AFB. She enhances mission readiness and quality



Courtesy Photo

Dorothy Brown spends a day at the park with her little sister Rikkia Alexander.

of life through detection and elimination of all forms of fraud, waste and abuse and discrimination. She manages conflicts with complaints processing to support the Air Force Inspector General Program. Brown's office also provides a readiness program that will improve the base posture in the event of natural disasters, major accidents, and force protection or deployment activities.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, based in Philadelphia, was established in 1904. BBBSA is the leader in mentoring relationships between adult volunteers and children at risk. BBBSA currently serves more than 130,000 children and youth through more than 500 agencies throughout the country.

"We know, from studies and nearly a century's experience, how much the presence of an adult mentor – a Big Brother or Big Sister – can mean to the behavior,

schoolwork and all-around happiness of a child," said Thomas M. McKenna, national executive director of BBBSA, on the organizations Internet site.

Rikkia's mother is understandably appreciative of the time Brown spends with her youngest of five children. "I think it's great she made the choice to do this," said Sherrell Kingsberry. "The first time Rikkia and Dorothy met, it seemed as if they already knew each other. It was an automatic bond."

Volunteering for the program wasn't just a matter of showing up one day and picking out a child. Brown was selected to participate in the program after an extensive interview, conducted to ensure matches that are not only safe and suited to the child's needs, but also harmonious and built to last.

"The Big Sister program is a great way to help others who may not have any other social or guidance outlet and to put positive people in their life," Brown said. "It's a bond that can last forever."

In addition to the Big Sister program, Brown is involved in the New Frontier Democratic Club, Black Women's Forum, Green Valley Condo Association, Western States Golf Association and a reading club. An active member of Blacks in Government, she also manages the Air Force Black Employment Program and organizes various events such as Martin Luther King Day, Juneteenth and Black History Month.

For more information on the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, talk to SMC's own "Big Sister," or visit <http://www.bbbsa.org> or call the Big Sisters of Los Angeles at 323-933-5749 or Big Brothers of Greater Los Angeles at 323-258-3333.

SMC Today

Got a good story? The staff of the video program, 'SMC Today', would love to hear about it. To submit story ideas for 'SMC Today' call John Brazelton at 363-6897.

Public notice: Accreditation team to visit medical clinic

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations will conduct an accreditation survey of the 61st Medical Squadron Nov. 1-3.

The purpose of the survey will be to evaluate the organization's compliance with nationally established Joint Commission standards. The survey results will be used to determine whether, and the conditions under which, accreditation should be awarded to the 61st Medical Squadron.

Joint Commission standards deal with organizational quality of care issues and the safety of the environment in which care is provided. Anyone believing that he or she has pertinent and valid information about such matters may request a public information interview with the Joint Commission's field representatives at the time of the survey. Information presented at the interview will be carefully evaluated for relevance to the accreditation process.

Requests for a public information interview must be made in writing and should be sent to the Joint Commission no later than five working days before the survey begins. The request must also indicate the nature of the information to be provided at the interview. Such requests should be addressed to:

*Division of Accreditation Operations
Organization Liaison
Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
One Renaissance Boulevard
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181*

The Joint Commission will acknowledge such requests in writing or by telephone and will inform the organization of the request for any interview. The organization will, in turn, notify the interviewee of the date, time and place of the meeting. *(Printed for the information of our beneficiaries.)*

Rosh Hashanah

Jewish New Year period begins Sept. 29

Chaplain, Lt. Col. Alan Kalinsky
Chaplain Service Division

The Jewish New Year period will be ushered in at sundown Sept. 29 and Holy Day Religious services will take place Sept. 30 and Oct 1.

While many people are busy with beginning the new school year and activities that correspond to the Fall months, the Jewish people begin their preparations for the High Holy Day Season.

According to Jewish Tradition, Rosh Hashanah – the Jewish New Year – marks the start of a ten-day period of spiritual self-examination and repentance. Intensive prayer is the central mood of these Holy Days. Acknowledgement of G-d's sovereignty over the world and his rulership over all mankind are the major themes of our prayers on these Holy Days of Obligation.

At this Holy Season, the Jewish people gather in Synagogues and Temples to offer their collective prayers to G-d requesting a year of health, happiness and peace.

The special Biblical precept that is most identified with Rosh Hashanah is the sounding of the Ram's Horn. The sound of the Shofar has been regarded from time immemorial as a call to penitence and a reminder of the binding of Isaac. The Bible in Genesis Chapter 22, describes Abraham's test of faithfulness to G-d, culminating in the substitution of a ram whose horns were caught in a bush, as a sacrifice, in the place of Isaac.

Holy Day services will be held in Synagogues throughout the Southland. Several Synagogues have extended an open invitation for all Jewish military personnel and their dependants to attend services.

For further information, contact the Chaplain's Office at 363-1956.

EET helps base prepare for real problems

Hap Parker
Public Affairs

Training and preparing today for an emergency or readiness situation tomorrow can make the difference between life and death for military personnel. Globally, those men and women in uniform involved in contingencies may well rely upon the readiness of Los Angeles AFB to surge its acquisition mission in their support.

The preparedness of Los Angeles AFB was addressed Sept. 11-14 as the Space and Missile Systems Center Inspector General Exercise Evaluation Team assessed the base's response to several readiness and emergency scenarios that project real-life.

"Determining how well the base responds to short-notice requests for worldwide deployment of our military personnel presents some challenges to our EET members," said Maj. Mitch Mefford, chief of the readiness branch in the SMC Inspector General Office. "The overall process is simple in theory, but it is also detailed, with many opportunities for the 'friction of war.'"

"We started out evaluating the ability of the base to quickly disseminate all of the deployment information to the organizations involved, especially those unit deployment managers responsible for having prepared their personnel. We then took a close look at the process and personnel of the deployment line where final assurance is given that personnel are ready to deploy. It is critical to an overall contingency operation's success that Los Angeles AFB can deploy prepared forces world-wide in short order. This deployment scenario is ever present as evidenced by American forces serving in hot spots all over the world," Mefford said.

SMC also tested the ability of its system program offices to examine opportunities to surge selected portions of their space systems in support of a contingency. This has historically been the realm of the Air Force aircraft community, but the potential to save lives while successfully prosecuting a military effort sooner has SMC pursuing this relatively new paradigm in the space sector.

"Given a contingency scenario, we looked at how well our SPOs, including SMC's geographically-separated units, addressed the surge process in response to a given contingency scenario to see if value could be provided to the warfighter in time," Mefford said.



From the start of the base exercise, simulated message traffic from higher headquarters flowed to Los Angeles AFB via the command post kicking off both the force deployment and acquisition surge. The 61st Air Base Group commander, in conjunction with the SMC commander, soon set up both secondary and primary battle staff meetings to coordinate the base's overall response to the exercise scenarios, including implementation of "threatcon" and "infocon" security measures.

Especially challenging were evaluation events that involved how well the base could implement its force protection measures while minimizing the impact to both installation and local traffic flow. Responses to robberies, secure area attacks and force protection were assessed by security force EET personnel who are among the most active members.

"It's important base personnel, facilities and equipment are protected and the mission of SMC not be impacted, particularly when it

can involve the surge of space system-related capabilities vital to a war effort," Mefford said. "One scenario involved the combined response of base security and local SWAT personnel to a disgruntled former employee who stormed the base taking our vice commander and office personnel hostage. The joint tactics and coordination were closely scrutinized by the EET to see where improvements are needed," he said.



Clockwise from top: SWAT team members react to a simulated hostage situation in the SMC commander's office. Building 130 occupants gather outside at their assigned evacuation point. Maj. Mitch Mefford, readiness branch chief, and Capt. Matthew Bardol, an Exercise Evaluation Team member, discuss their findings during an exercise at Los Angeles AFB Sept. 11-14. (Photos by Joe Juarez.)



SMC units receive Air Force-level awards

Ronea Alger
Public Affairs

Four Space and Missile Systems Center units received Air Force-level awards during ceremonies here Sept. 6. Gen. Lester Lyles, Commander of the Air Force Materiel Command, presented the awards.

"I am proud to have the opportunity to present these awards to some really outstanding heroes. I know about all the hard work that went into getting these honors," said Lyles. "My heartfelt congratulations to everyone."

The 61st Air Base Group earned the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for providing base and readiness support to SMC from January through December 1999.

"Each and every person in the organization works hard to deliver effective and efficient base support services to SMC and numerous other units in the greater Los Angeles area," said Col. David Price, 61st Air Base Group commander.

"This honor is tangible proof that the Air Force leadership recognizes and rewards professional integrity, excellence and service before self. I can't tell you how proud I am to serve with so many great people working together as a single dedicated team!"

Three units were awarded the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award.

The Military Satellite Communications Joint Program Office showcased first-class leadership for four of the nation's 12 Acquisitions Category-1D programs, the most complex Department of Defense acquisitions.

Development of the nation's military satellite communications programs went from leading edge, anti-jam protected communications to wide-band broadcast, according to the award citation. The MILSATCOM joint program office delivers assured worldwide communications to commanders in charge. With an annual budget of \$800 million and a total budget

of \$30 billion authorized, the joint program office delivered eight satellites while sustaining 12 already on orbit.

"The hardworking members of the MILSATCOM joint program office put the warfighters first by listening to their needs, understanding their exacting requirements, then delivering as promised," said Brig. Gen. Craig Cooning, MILSATCOM joint program office director. "The award is important because it provides our members recognition for a job well done in serving the joint community."

The Defense Meteorological Satellite Program was cited for accomplishing its mission by bringing a broad range of new capabilities into operation for the joint warfighter.

During this period, the program office deployed a lightweight small tactical terminal that played a defining role for weather forecasters during Operation Allied Force in support of allied combat air operations.

The delivery of a high-resolution operational-prototype cloud forecasting system in less than two weeks and a full capability system in less than two months, revolutionized the warfighter's ability for precision strikes against critical targets in Kosovo.

This system allowed the warfighter to exploit the transitory pockets of clear skies, increasing weapon accuracy, aircraft survivability and bomb damage assessment, while reducing collateral damage to the civil population.

Additionally, the program office successfully launched the first new-generation 5D-3 bus, the F-15 satellite, the crown jewel of the program's many successes.

"In less than 60 days, the DMSP team responded to a combat mission need statement and delivered a high-resolution operational cloud forecasting capability that revolutionized the warfighter's ability to conduct precision strikes against critical targets in Kosovo," said Col. Randy Odle, director, DMSP.



Photos by Joe Juarez

Gen. Lester Lyles presents Organizational Excellence awards to (clockwise from top left): Brig. Gen. Craig Cooning, MILSATCOM joint program office director; David Hess, DoD Space Test Program director; Col. Randy Odle, DMSP director; and Col. David E. Price, 61st ABG commander.

"With this capability, the DMSP program office exploited transitory in-theater weather conditions to significantly improve the warfighter's strike mission effectiveness. This is an outstanding example of successful acquisition surge to leverage emerging technology to support immediate operational needs.

"This award formally recognizes and validates the truly superb accomplishments of the DMSP team during the award period. This award honors the entire DMSP program office, and we are very proud of the on-going support DMSP provides to our warfighters," Odle added.

SMC's Operating Location AW, DoD Space Test Program, Test and Evaluation Directorate, located at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, also earned the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award.

This office consistently exceeded mission and performance standards. Superb pathfinder initiatives for

DoD access to space vastly improved space technology to support the warfighter. The superior leadership and the effectiveness of the people at this geographically separated unit resulted in complete mission success for 14 experiments aboard six Space Shuttle missions.

"We've taken the phrase 'do more with less' to a new level," said Dave Hess, director, DoD Space Test Program Shuttle and Space Station Payloads Office. "With limited resources, we increased our flexibility in getting DoD payloads manifested, maintained our integrity in assuring our customer's science goals were met, and strengthened our credibility with NASA and the astronaut crews we train. The award recognizes a total DoD Shuttle/Space Station team effort in one of the most demanding areas of access to space – human spaceflight. Working with 50 percent manning over the last year, we doubled our efforts and excelled," Hess said.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lance Cheung

With a sunrise start, nearly 3,000 runners participate in the Air Force marathon.

4th annual Air Force marathon

Wright-Patterson runner wins race in first attempt

Staff Sgt. Carl Norman
AFMC Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) - Nearly 3,000 runners from 47 states and eight foreign countries wound their way around the birthplace of aviation here Sept. 16 during the fourth annual Air Force Marathon.

Wright-Patterson's John Agnew captured the men's overall title, running the 26.2-mile event in 2 hours, 30 minutes and 50 seconds. That's only 3 minutes and 9 seconds off Andrew Herr's marathon record set in 1998.

This was the first time Agnew ran the Air Force event, but he's a marathon veteran with some nine races under his belt.

"It feels great to win," Agnew said. "I've trained for six months for this but I'm glad it's over."

Mariska Kramer-Postma from the Netherlands was the first woman to cross the finish line, earning her the women's overall title with a time of 2:57:16. That's only 2:12 off Lori Wilson's marathon record set in 1997.

Kramer-Postma's athletic schedule has been very active this year; she's traveled the world to run two other marathons as well as two Ironman triathlons in Switzerland and the Netherlands.

"I enjoyed myself and had a good day," she said after the race.

Astro News deadlines

The Los Angeles AFB paper, the *Astro News*, is published every other week on Friday. The editorial office is located within the Space and Missile Systems Center Public Affairs Office in Building 105, Room 4049, in Area A. The telephone number is (310) 363-0303.

Deadline for article submissions is Friday, close of business, the week before the publication date. Articles should be sent via e-mail to the editor at SMC.PA.Astronews@losangeles.af.mil.

<u>Publication date</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Oct. 6	Sept. 29
Oct. 20	Oct. 13
Nov. 3	Oct. 27



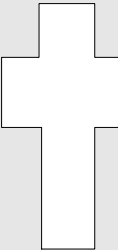
Photo by Shaad Madison

Battling for softball supremacy

Maj. Robert Siegle, MILSATCOM Joint Program Office, tries to lead a rally against the Los Angeles Military Entrance Processing Station during a tournament Sept. 8. MEPS went on to beat SMC/MC to win the championship with a score of 17-8.

Chapel Schedule

Roman Catholic
Saturday: Sacrament of Reconciliation at 4 p.m., Mass at 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: Mass at 9 a.m., CCD in Building 37 at 10:15 a.m. and RCIA meets at 10:15 a.m. in Building 37 conference room until Easter.
Protestant
Sunday: Sunday School at 9 a.m., Building 37; General Protestant worship at 10:30 a.m.



For more information on baptisms call Father Roberts at 363-1871.

Classes are available for those interested in becoming a Roman Catholic. Would you like to more about the Catholic Faith? Are you already an adult Catholic wanting to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? The Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults classes begin Sept. 22 at 10:15 a.m. in Building 37, 2nd floor conference room.
The classes are free and will be held three times a month for 1 1/2 hours until April 8. For more information or to register for the class call Chaplain, Major Randall Roberts at 363-1871.

All the above services are at the Fort MacArthur Chapel. Call the Chaplain Service Division office at 363-1956 for more information.

Community Center 363-8225

A trip to Tijuana is Sept. 23 and will depart the Community Center at 8 a.m. and return by 5 p.m. Cost is \$6.

Due to seismic upgrades to Building 425, Fort Mac Hall is closed to groups of 50 or more until January 2001. Monday Night Football is back! Come and see your favorite team play on a big screen at the Harbor View Sept. 25 from 5 to 10 p.m. You must be an identification cardholder and over 18-years old to attend.

RV Storage 363-2081

For your convenience, Los Angeles AFB offers two RV storage facilities. They are located next to the FamCamp in Lawndale and at Fort MacArthur*. Storage fees are \$30 per month for RVs over 23 feet and \$20 per month for RVs under 23 feet long.
*The RV storage located at Fort MacArthur is open to active duty military personnel residing in Los Angeles AFB military housing.

Family Child Care – 363-8334

The Seal Beach Naval facility has openings in their Navy licensed Family Home Day Care homes. For more information, call Kathy Richards, Family Childcare Director, at (562) 626-7899.
Los Angeles AFB is striving to expand Family Child Care Services in homes of military and retired military members. If you are a spouse who lives either on or off base and are interested in becoming a licensed family Child Care Provider, contact Hyechong Froschl at 363-8334 or stop by the Child Development Center on Fort MacArthur, Building 31.

Providers:

Amy Gonzalez can provide child care from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday for children ages 3 and up on a full, part time and drop-in basis. For more information, call 514-1938.
Terri Gregg can provide child care from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday to Friday for children ages 2 and up on a full, part time and drop-in basis. For more information, call 832-1099.
Johvon Tidwell can provide child care from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday for children ages 2 and up on a full, part time and drop-in basis. For more information, call 547-9762.

The above providers are the only individuals authorized to provide child care in the Fort MacArthur, Pacific Heights and Pacific Crest Areas. In accordance with Air Force Instruction 34-276, “Persons wishing to provide care for more than 10 hours per week on a regular basis in government quarters must be trained,

licensed and granted approval from the Base Commander.” If your child care provider is not on this list, please notify our office immediately so we can invite them to become trained and licensed through our Family Child Care office.

Tickets & Info 363-2190

Tickets are available for the Los Angeles County Fair will continue until Oct. 1. Events, attractions and exhibits at the 2000 Fair will focus on yesterday’s traditions, the world today and the dreams of tomorrow. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. The gate prices for adults are \$10, Monday through Friday and children 6 to 12-years old get in free; Saturday and Sunday children tickets are \$5; Seniors 60 and older tickets are \$8; and Tuesdays seniors get in free. Parking varies between \$5 to \$15. There is a \$5 discount included on each ticket, to be shown at the carnival ticket booths for redemption.

HAWC offers classes to help improve health

The following is a list of classes offered at the Health & Wellness Center in October. Most classes are offered monthly. Contact the HAWC at 363-6266 to sign up for any of these classes or to obtain further information. Classes are open to active duty, family members, DoD civilians and contractors. All classes will be held in the recently remodeled Health & Wellness Center, located in Building 243, across from the Commissary.

Oct. 3..... 9 - 11 a.m.
Heart Healthy Eating

Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26 10 - 11 a.m.
Step to Lower Cholesterol (4 class series)

Oct. 10..... 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
General Nutrition

Oct. 10, 16, 23, 27, 30 9:30 - 11 a.m.
Tobacco Cessation (Series of five classes.)

Oct. 2, 10, 16, 20, 23 5:30 - 7 p.m.
Tobacco Cessation (Series of five classes.)

Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25 9 - 11 a.m.
Think Light! Weight Loss Program. (Series of eight classes, mandatory and voluntary program.)

Oct. 17..... 9 - 11 a.m.
Smart Shopping Commissary Tour

Oct. 31..... 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Stress Management